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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Michael Eilersen
Serial No. : [Corresponds to 60/229,106] Examiner: n/a
Filed : concurrently herewith Art Unit: n/a
Title : Support for a cartridge for transferring an electronically read-
able item of information from the cartridge to an electronic
circuit

August 9, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above application, which is being filed concurrently
herewith, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, prior to line 5, insert the following new section:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application claims priority on U.S. provisional application
No. 60/229,106, filed on August 30, 2000.

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace claims 3-13 with the following claims:

3. (Amended) A support according to claim 1, characterized in that said support (15; 25; 35) is made of elastic materials.

4. (Amended) A support according to claim 1, characterized in that said one or more electrically connecting supports (151; 251; 252; 351) are made of elastomeric materials.

5. (Amended) A support according to claim 2, characterized in that said electrically conducting material (1511; 2511; 3511) consists of silicone rubber with a concentration of carbon black sufficient for electrical conduction.

6. (Amended) A support according to claim 1, characterized in that said cartridge (40) has an axial direction of symmetry (41), and said information carrying areas (401, 402; 403, 404; 405 406; 410, 411, 412, 413, 414) are located at one axial end of the cartridge.

7. (Amended) A support according to claim 1, characterized in that said cartridge (40) has an axial direction of symmetry (41), and said information carrying areas (415) are located in an axial direction of the cartridge covering only a limited angular sector (421).

8. (Amended) A support according to claim 1, characterized in that said support (15; 35) comprises one electrically connecting support (151; 351) stretching in an axial direction of the cartridge (10; 30).

9. (Amended) A support according to claim 1, characterized in that said support (25; 70) comprises two or more electrically connecting supports (251, 252; 701, 702, 703) each stretching in an axial direction (21; 72) of the cartridge (20; 71) and being located side by side along the radial periphery of the cartridge.

10. (Amended) A support according to claim 1, characterized in that the surface of the support (15; 25; 35) facing towards the cartridge (10; 20; 30), including the one or more electrically connecting supports (151; 251, 252; 351), in an axial cross section correspond to the surface of the cartridge.

11. (Amended) A support according to claim 1, characterized in that the surface of the support (70) facing towards the cartridge (71), including the one or more electrically connecting supports (701, 702, 703), in an axial cross section essentially correspond to the surface of the cartridge, when said cartridge is positioned in said support.

12. (Amended) A support according to claim 1, characterized in that said cartridge (10) has an axial direction of symmetry (11), and said contact area (163) consists of groups of identical and regularly spaced electrically conducting pads (62) of width W_{cp} (620) in the direction of adjacent pads, adjacent pads being separated by an electrically insulating area of width Di_{acp} (621), and the following relations between said distances are fulfilled:

$$Di_{acp} > 2 \cdot T_{cl}, \text{ and}$$

$$W_{cp} > T_{il} + T_{cl}.$$

13. (Amended) A support according to claim 1, characterized in that said cartridge (20) has an axial direction of symmetry (21), and said cartridge is provided with a multitude of rectangular, essentially parallel, identically sized information carrying areas (810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860) of height Hica (87) in the direction of a circumference (80) of said axis of symmetry (21), said information carrying areas being spaced with equal mutual distance Dica (88) along the periphery of the cartridge in the direction of a circumference (80) of said axis of symmetry (21), and said supporting means (25) comprise two rectangular, essentially parallel, identical electrically connecting supports (251, 252; 81, 82) of height Hctm (85) in the direction perpendicular to the axis of symmetry of the cartridge, separated by an electrically insulating volume (255) of width Dctm (86) between the two electrically connecting supports, and the following relations between said distances are fulfilled:

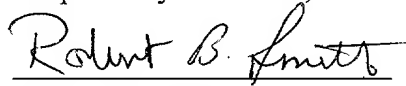
$Hica < Dctm < 2 \cdot Hica + Dica$, and

$Hctm < Dica < 2 \cdot Hctm + Dctm$.

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments to claims 3-13 are to remove multiple dependencies and to remove the word "preferably" for greater clarity. Favorable consideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Robert B. Smith

PTO Registration No. 28,538

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) A support according to claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that said support (15; 25; 35) is made of elastic materials.

4. (Amended) A support according to [any one of claims 1-3] claim 1, characterized in that said one or more electrically connecting supports (151; 251; 252; 351) are made of elastomeric materials.

5. (Amended) A support according to [any one of claims 2-4] claim 2, characterized in that said electrically conducting material (1511; 2511; 3511) consists of silicone rubber with a concentration of carbon black sufficient for electrical conduction.

6. (Amended) A support according to [any one of claims 1-5] claim 1, characterized in that said cartridge (40) has an axial direction of symmetry (41), and said information carrying areas (401, 402; 403, 404; 405 406; 410, 411, 412, 413, 414) are located [preferably in] at one axial end of the cartridge.

7. (Amended) A support according to [any one of claims 1-5] claim 1, characterized in that said cartridge (40) has an axial direction of symmetry (41), and said information carrying areas (415) are located [preferably] in an axial direction of the cartridge covering only a limited angular sector (421).

8. (Amended) A support according to [any one of claims 1-7] claim 1, characterized in that said support (15; 35) comprises one electrically connecting

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support (151; 351) [preferably] stretching in an axial direction of the cartridge (10; 30).

9. (Amended) A support according to [any one of claims 1-7] claim 1, characterized in that said support (25; 70) comprises two or more electrically connecting supports (251, 252; 701, 702, 703) each stretching [preferably] in an axial direction (21; 72) of the cartridge (20; 71) and being located side by side along the radial periphery of the cartridge.

10. (Amended) A support according to [any one of claims 1-9] claim 1, characterized in that the surface of the support (15; 25; 35) facing towards the cartridge (10; 20; 30), including the one or more electrically connecting supports (151; 251, 252; 351), in an axial cross section correspond to the surface of the cartridge.

11. (Amended) A support according to [any one of claims 1-9] claim 1, characterized in that the surface of the support (70) facing towards the cartridge (71), including the one or more electrically connecting supports (701, 702, 703), in an axial cross section essentially correspond to the surface of the cartridge, when said cartridge is positioned in said support.

12. (Amended) A support according to [any one of claims 1-11] claim 1, characterized in that said cartridge (10) has an axial direction of symmetry (11), and said contact area (163) consists of groups of identical and regularly spaced electrically conducting pads (62) of width W_{cp} (620) in the direction of adjacent

pads, adjacent pads being separated by an electrically insulating area of width Diacp (621), and the following relations between said distances are fulfilled:

$\text{Diacp} > 2 * \text{Tcl}$, and

$\text{Wcp} > \text{Til} + \text{Tcl}$.

13. (Amended) A support according to [any one of claims 1-12] claim 1, characterized in that said cartridge (20) has an axial direction of symmetry (21), and said cartridge is provided with a multitude of rectangular, essentially parallel, identically sized information carrying areas (810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860) of height Hica (87) in the direction of a circumference (80) of said axis of symmetry (21), said information carrying areas being spaced with equal mutual distance Dica (88) along the periphery of the cartridge in the direction of a circumference (80) of said axis of symmetry (21), and said supporting means (25) comprise two rectangular, essentially parallel, identical electrically connecting supports (251, 252; 81, 82) of height Hctm (85) in the direction perpendicular to the axis of symmetry of the cartridge, separated by an electrically insulating volume (255) of width Dctm (86) between the two electrically connecting supports, and the following relations between said distances are fulfilled:

$\text{Hica} < \text{Dctm} < 2 * \text{Hica} + \text{Dica}$, and

$\text{Hctm} < \text{Dica} < 2 * \text{Hctm} + \text{Dctm}$.